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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Korea

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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SUBJECT Trade Between North and South Korea

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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25X1A

1. The following firms in Wonsan (127-26, 39-10), North Korea, have been trading with South Koreans:

Chosen Commercial Company, Ltd. (朝鮮商事株式會社)  
 Chosen Trading Company (朝鮮貿易公社)  
 Chosen Industrial Company (朝鮮興業社)  
 Chosen Industrial Company (朝鮮産業社)  
 Chosen Products Company (朝鮮物産公社)  
 Chong Yung Commercial Company (正隆商事株式會社)  
 Koryo Trading Company (高麗貿易社)  
 Pu Yung Marine Products Company (富榮水産公社)  
 Se Ki Company (世紀洋行)  
 Son Il Industrial Company (鮮一興業社)

2. The Chosen Trading Company, the Chosen Industrial Company, the Son Il Industrial Company, and the Tong Hae Industrial Company (東海工業社) are among those which can be dealt with by South Korean traders without difficulty. Although they appear to be independent firms, they are closely connected with the North Korean government. The Son Il Industrial Company, for example, is obliged to pay the North Korean Ministry of Interior twenty million won annually, no matter what its profits. North Korean harbor inspection officials sometimes recommend that South Korean traders deal with one special company, although apparently some choice is possible among government-approved firms. The company is expected to handle part of the necessary state clearances for its South Korean customers.

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

3. Items especially desired for trade in North Korea are raw rubber, motor oil, diesel oil, gasoline, spare parts for vehicles, factory belts, bearings, leather shoe linings, material for making matches, manila rope, fish nets, vehicle tires, medicine (particularly biologics and sulphadiazine), nails, lumber, sizing, saws, jeeps, and small fishing boats.
4. Although trade with South Korea is legal in the north it is closely restricted. Traders must possess the following documents:
  - a. A certificate stating that they have no relatives in South Korea and no relatives in North Korea either in jail or with a criminal record.
  - b. An export permit stating the article and amount of goods for export, approved by the Ministry of Commerce.
  - c. An application for a special trip to South Korea, with exports involved, approved by the provincial State Security Bureau, the East Coast State Security Bureau, and the East Coast Inspection Section.
  - d. Two personal security references, with a guarantee of import of sufficient exchange goods to equal the export products.
  - e. Certificate of authenticity for the individual from the exporting firm.

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